

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination(RCE).

Applicant notes that a Notice of Allowance was mailed in this application on May 14, 2003. However, as discussed with the Examiner by telephone, Applicant is filling the RCE rather than paying the issue fee in view of the fact that it is not clear from the record whether the Article 34 Amendment was considered by the Examiner, and because the Amendment filed March 27, 2003, did not accurately reflect the pending claims. It is noted that the new claims are primarily based on the claims as amended by the Article 19 and Article 34 amendments in this case.

For convenience of the Examiner, Applicant has canceled the pending claims 1 and 3-71 without prejudice or disclaimer and has added a new set of claims for examination. In order to assist the examiner in matching the new claims with the earlier claims, Applicant notes the following:

- new claim 72 incorporates claims 1 and 2
 - new claims 73-129 correspond to claims 3-59
 - new independent claim 130 corresponds to claim 4
 - new claims 131 and 132 correspond to dependent claims 5 and 7
- new independent claim 133 corresponds to claim 13
- new independent claim 134 corresponds to claim 14

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- new claim 135 corresponds to claim 15
- new independent claim 136 corresponds to claim 17
- new claim 137 corresponds to claim 18
- new independent claim 138 corresponds to claim 19
- new independent claim 139 corresponds to claim 20
- new independent claim 140 corresponds to claim 52
- new claim 141 is new
- new claims 142-147 correspond to allowed claims 21-26.
- new claim 148 is new.

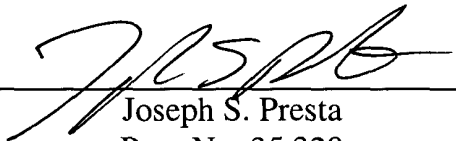
Favorable examination of these new claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this case, or deem that any further issues need to be addressed prior to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

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